

# POLLUTION PREVENTION THROUGH PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT

Pesticide use is one of the few ways that we intentionally introduce toxic pollutants into the environment. Therefore, EPA has been at the forefront of efforts to reduce pesticide use, not only through regulatory mandates, but also through innovative cooperative agreements. Two on-going programs illustrate the Agency's commitment to pesticide use reduction through cooperative projects: the Biologically Integrated Orchard Systems (BIOS) Project, and the Urban Pesticide Initiative.

The BIOS Project is designed to help almond growers in California's Central Valley reduce their use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. With funding from EPA, the BIOS project has provided 28 farms with technical support and financial incentives to adopt biological farming methods. For example, growers are encouraged to plant vegetative cover under trees that builds the soil and provides habitat for beneficial insects that prey on the unwanted pests. When asked about the project's effectiveness, a local organizer stated that "BIOS is working right now for farmers who are enrolled." The success of the BIOS project has led EPA to expand the program model to other crops in California, building new partnerships with the agricultural community.

The Urban Pesticide Initiative (UPI) is another cooperative program that relies on outreach and education to promote pesticide use reduction. A joint effort between EPA's regional office in Seattle, Washington, several Washington State agencies, and the cooperative extension community, UPI focuses on reducing unnecessary and illegal uses of pesticides in cities and towns. Through coordination with stakeholder groups and educational outreach, UPI promotes integrated pest management through a variety of geographic initiatives.

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